governance, entry existence and operation of all the foreign pay TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to probe the legal existence of these foreign pay TV channels *vis-a-vis* the prevailing laws of the land?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Guidelines for satellite channels uplinking from India, are already in place. Indian companies with foreign equity holding upto 49% are permitted to set up uplinking hub (teleports) for leasing on out their facilities to broadcasters. All TV Channels, irrespective of their ownership (including equity structure or management control), are eligible to uplink from India subject to compliance of terms and conditions laid down in the Guidelines. The programmes of foreign statelite channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programme and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the rules framed thereunder. The subscription rates of the pay channels or of the cable operators are commercial arrangements between the broadcasting companies, cable operations and the subscribers and are market driven.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

National and International Coverage of AIR/DD

383. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the present national and international coverage of Akashvani and Doordarshan;

(b) the targets for the year 2002-2003;

(c) the steps underway to achieve them; and

(d) the funds, technology or physical provisions that stand in the way?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Radio coverage is presently available

to about 98.8% population of the country and also to various parts of the world (through Short Wave/MW), except in North and South America. Doordrashan signals are available in satellite mode throughout the country and also in a number of countries in Middle-East, Africa, Asia, Europe, CIS, USA, Canada and Australia. Terrestrial Doordarshan coverage is available to about 89.4% of the population of our country.

(b) The targeted Radio and TV coverage for the year 2002-2003 is 98.83% and 91% of population of the country respectively.

(c) and (d) Installation of a number of Radio and TV Transmitters of varying capacities are under implementation for expansion of terrestrial coverage in the country. Regular monitoring of projects is undertaken at different levels to ensure their timely completion and no apparent constraints are envisaged in this endeavour.

Cases registered Against officials of Prasar Bharati

384. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case of cheating and criminal breach of trust has been registered against some officials of Prasar Bharati Corporation and others for causing a loss of Rs. 13.79 crore to the Corporation;

(b) if so, the officials held responsible;

(c) the fraud unearthed;

(d) the action taken against them; and

(e) the steps being taken to check such frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Closure of Media Units

385. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry is in favour of closure of several media units including the DAVP, Directorate of Film Festivals, Films Division, Directorate of Field Publicity and Song and Drama Divison, as suggested by Expenditure Reforms Commission;